



- **Judaism**

- « Religion? Ethnic group? Nationality?
- « Judaism is the foundational block of our morals, ethics, faith perspective, and sense of covenant relationship with God.
- « Father Abraham
  - + Promise of a land
  - + Promise of a people
  - + I will bless you, and you will be a blessing.
- « Moses
  - + The great "I Am!"
  - + Wandering in the wilderness
  - + Ten Commandments
  - + Promised Land
  - + Torah, five books of the law
- « Mishnah and Talmud
  - + Teachings of great rabbis
  - + Interpretations of the law
  - + Interpretations of interpretations
- « Comparison:
  - + We share belief in one God.
  - + The doctrine of the Holy Trinity helps Christians understand how the one God interacts with us and blesses us. Jews see it as cutting God into three pieces.
  - + Judaism teaches that sin is something we must overcome ourselves. Christianity teaches that we are forgiven and loved through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  - + Judaism does not stress an afterlife.
  - + Christians accept Jesus as the Messiah, or anointed one, but Jews are waiting for a Messiah that will be more along the lines of a King David—bringing glory and prominence to the nation Israel.

- **Islam**

- « Islam means "to submit."
  - Begun by Mohammed around 600 AD.
  - Felt led by the Angel Gabriel to "recite" truths about humanity.
  - *Qu'ran* (Koran) means "to recite" in Arabic.
- « Five Doctrines
  - + One true God, Allah
  - + Angels: Gabriel and Shaitan
  - + Scripture
    - > Torah
    - > Psalms of David
    - > Gospel of Jesus
    - > Koran (supersedes and overrides others)
  - + Prophets including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, and Jesus. Mohammed is the last and greatest prophet.
  - + End times: All will be judged. Heaven is a sensuous place, and Hell is for those who oppose Mohammed.
- « Five Pillars (or six)
  - + Testify that there is no God but Allah
  - + Pray five times each day
  - + Give one fortieth of income to the poor
  - + Fast during Ramadan
  - + Pilgrimage to Mecca
  - + *Jihad*, or Holy War
- « Comparison:
  - + We share belief in one God.
  - + Muslims teach that Judas died on the cross, not Jesus.
  - + Muslims do not accept Jesus as the Son of God.
  - + Islam teaches that each must pay for and overcome ones own sin. Christianity teaches that we are forgiven and loved through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  - + Muslims follow a dead prophet. Christians follow a living Lord.
  - + Sunni Muslims believe that the descendents of the first four caliphs—Mohammed's successors—are the legitimate leaders of Islam. Shiites, in contrast, believe that only the heirs of the fourth caliph, Ali, are the legitimate successors of Mohammed.